

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, US, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN AND DIEGO
GARCIA UPGRADE

REF: STATE 191789

1. HMG COMMENTS ON GUIDANCE IN REFTEL AS FOLLOWS:

(A) FOR INCLUSION IN THE LETTERS TO CHAIRMEN OF THE

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND THE SENATE AND HOUSE ARMED
SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES: "THE BRITISH

GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND HAVE GIVEN THEIR
APPROVAL." COMMENT: HMG PREFERS "APPROVAL" TO
"AGREEMENT". MOST IMPORTANT POINT IS HMG DESIRE TO
AVOID USE OF WORD "UPGRADE".

(B) FOR USE BY USG IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON DIEGO
GARCIA IN LIEU OF WORDING PARA 4 REFTEL: "EXISTING
COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA, COVERING THE
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INDIAN OCEAN, ARE TO BE IMPROVED. THIS WILL INVOLVE

ABOUT 200 ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. IT WILL IN NO WAY ALTER THE FUNCTION OF THE FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA (WHICH WILL REMAIN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EXISTING SITE) AND IS WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE EXISTING UK/US AGREEMENT OF 24 OCTOBER 1972. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND HAVE GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL." COMMENT: FCO RECOGNIZES THAT REVELATION OF NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IS MATTER FOR US DECISION BUT HMG WOULD PREFER TO BE STRAIGHTFORWARD ON THIS POINT. HMG DOES NOT INSIST ON BRACKETED LANGUAGE ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT HOPES USG WILL USE SOME FORMULATION LIKE HIS IF QUESTION IS ASKED ABOUT SIZE OF FACILITY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ASKED OF HMG ABOUT THE EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA, HMG WOULD PROPOSE TO CONFIRM THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT AND THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL, AND ADD THAT ANY FURTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE US GOVERNMENT.

3. IF USG CAN AGREE WITH HMG COMMENTS, FCO SEES FOLLOWING SCENARIO. USG WOULD INFORM HMG AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF SENDING LETTERS TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. ON RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION, HMG WOULD SEND GUIDANCE TO ITS POSTS IN INTERESTED COUNTRIES -- INDIAN OCEAN LITTORALS AND MEMBERS OF UN AD HOC COMMITTEES ON INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION USING PARA 2 ABOVE AND TO REFER ALL OTHER QUERIES TO U.S. EMBASSIES. THIS WOULD

PRESUPPOSE USG HAD SENT PRESS GUIDANCE ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION TO POSTS IN SAME COUNTRY. HMG DRAWING UP LIST OF EMBASSIES AND MISSIONS TO WHICH GUIDANCE IS TO BE SENT.

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